

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03538

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: UNSC, BG, JA, US
SUBJECT: BANGLADESH/JAPAN CANDIDACY FOR SECURITY COUNCIL
SEAT

REF: USUN 3057

1. ON SEPTEMBER 7, MISOFF HAD LUNCH WITH JAPANESE FIRST
SECRETARY TAKEKAZU KAWAMURA AS FOLLOW-UP TO REFTEL.
KAWAMURA EXPRESSED CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM AT THE PROSPECTS FOR
JAPAN WINNING OUT OVER BANGLADESH FOR THE CONTESTED
SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT.

2. JAPANESE REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT WESTERN EUROPEAN
INTENTIONS ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF NEW BANGLADESH ARGUMENT
OF LATTER'S COMMONWEALTH TIES. THIS COUPLED WITH EARLIER
EUROPEAN PREDISPOSITION AGAINST ITALIAN CANDIDACY
(I.E., SPECIAL PROMINENCE IN THE ROTATION OF REGIONAL SC
SEATS) MAY BE SEEN AS CONVINCING ARGUMENT BY SOME WEOS
AGAINST SUPPORTING JAPANESE CANDIDACY. THIS SORT OF
PAROCHIALISM WHICH IGNORES FACT THAT JAPAN LIKELY SEE MOST
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ISSUES AS WEOS DO WHILE BANGLADESH NEARER TO OPPOSITE
EXTREME IS UNFORTUNATELY NOT ATYPICAL FOR WEOS HERE.
(ALSO OF NOTE IS RUMOR THAT NORDIC STATES WILL SUPPORT
BANGLADESH -- ALTHOUGH NORDICS HAVE ASSURED JAPANESE
THAT THEY ARE AT PRESENT UNCOMMITTED.) JAPAN FIGURES
EASTERN EUROPEANS WILL SIDE WITH USSR AGAINST JAPAN
GIVEN JAPANESE SIGNATURE OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY

WITH PRC. POSSIBLE EXCEPTIONS IN THIS GROUP ARE YUGOSLAVS AND ROMANIANS. AS FOR ASEANS, JAPAN EXPECTS MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA TO SUPPORT BANGLADESH, WHILE THAILAND, SINGAPORE AND PHILIPPINES WILL PROBABLY SUPPORT JAPAN. THUS FAR, ARABS HAVE BEEN NON-COMMITAL AS THEY ARE AWAITING OUTCOME OF ARAB LEAGUE CONFERENCE. IN LATTER CONNECTION, JAPAN HOPES THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL ALLOW ARAB STATES TO VOTE ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS. AS FOR REMAINING NON-ALIGNED STATES, AS EXPECTED THE PREDICTION IS MIXED AND AS YET TOO EARLY TO TELL; JAPAN SEEMS, HOWEVER, TO HAVE MADE GOOD PROGRESS IN AFRICA GROUP. BY JAPANESE OWN PRELIMINARY VOTE COUNT, JAPAN HAS 70 VOTES IN SUPPORT OF ITS CANDIDACY AS OPPOSED TO A LITTLE BETTER THAN 20 VOTES IN SUPPORT OF A BANGLADESHI SC SEAT.

3. KAWAMURA FEELS THAT BANGLADESHI PERMREP KAISER CLAIMS OF EXAGGERATED SUPPORT MAY IN LONG RUN PROVE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, E.G., AFTER NAM CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE, KAISER BOASTED HE HAD WHOLE NAM GROUP SUPPORT FOR BANGLADESH SC SEAT. EARLIER KAISER HAD MADE LIKE CLAIMS OF ASIA GROUP SUPPORT. YOUNG

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